

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

**Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 under 35 USC § 102**

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eggers et al. (US Patent No. 5,910,996).

The present claimed invention recites a method and audio reproduction apparatus. A plurality of audio amplifiers are provided. Each amplifier is responsive to a corresponding audio signal for generating audio power in a corresponding audio speaker. A device selectively applies a supply voltage to a first of the audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second of the audio amplifiers is higher. The device selectively applies a supply voltage at a higher magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in the second of the audio amplifiers is lower. This is done to reduce a change in a total audio power generated when a change in the mode of operation occurs.

Eggers et al. disclose a system able to provide multiple audio programs at a single time. The programs are audibilized at different volumes and may be interchanged. Eggers et al. neither discloses nor suggests “selectively applying a supply voltage to a first audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is higher, and at a higher magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower” as in the present claimed invention. Eggers et al. is also not concerned with the object of reducing “a change in a total audio power generated, when a change in the mode of operation occurs” as is the present claimed invention. Eggers et al. is concerned with allowing a user to listen to multiple audio programs at a single time thereby allowing concentration for limited times on each program. The Examiner cites the interchanging of foreground and background programs by Eggers et al. as reciting “selectively applying a supply voltage to a first

audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is higher, and at a higher magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower” as in the present claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that the increasing or decreasing the volume of an audio program in Eggers et al. is not the same as providing a lower or higher supply voltage to an amplifier as in the present claimed invention. In Eggers et al., the supply voltage provided to the speakers of the system is constant as is the number of speakers being utilized. The present claimed invention is concerned with altering the number of speakers used during different modes. When the number of speakers being utilized changes, the total audio power output of the speakers also changes. The present claimed invention provides for a constant total audio power for the system regardless of the number of speakers being utilized thereby allowing for a smaller voltage drop across the output or driver stage of the amplifier and less power dissipation. Such is neither disclosed nor suggested by Eggers et al.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eggers et al. as applied to claim 1 above in view of Meisenheimer (US Patent 4,560,838).

Meisenheimer discloses a system for selectively connecting one of a plurality of audio inputs to an audio output. Each audio input of Meisenheimer is tied to a corresponding variable voltage input. Upon switching between audio inputs supplied to an amplifier, Meisenheimer switches the corresponding variable voltage input to the amplifier. Similarly to Eggers et al., Meisenheimer neither discloses nor suggests “selectively applying a supply voltage to a first audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is higher, and at a higher magnitude, in

a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower” as in the present claimed invention.

2. Additionally, there is no motivation for combining the systems of the cited references to include the features of the claimed arrangement, since none of the references address the specific problem of departmental based authorization management of access to medical images.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Meisenheimer adds nothing in combination with Eggers et al. which would make the present claimed invention unpatentable. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eggers et al. as applied to claim 1 above in view of Markow et al. (US Patent No.4,755,769).

Markow et al. disclose a signal processing apparatus providing selective power amplification. The Examiner cites Markow et al. to show use of a common power supply. The Examiner claims that the charge pump power supplies 40 are powered by a common voltage source VPC. Source VPC is only connected to an input of a single charge pump power supply 40 and thus applicant fails to see how more than one “amplifier” is powered by a common source as claimed in claim 6 of the present invention. Furthermore, Markow et al. neither discloses nor suggests “a common power supply having a power rating that is determined by the total audio power produced in each of said first and second amplifiers” as claimed in claim 6 of the present invention. Additionally, Markow et al. (with Eggers et al.) neither disclose nor suggest “selectively applying a supply voltage to a first audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is higher, and at a higher

magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower” as in the present claimed invention.

2. Additionally, there is no motivation for combining the systems of the cited references to include the features of the claimed arrangement, since none of the references address the specific problem of departmental based authorization management of access to medical images.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Markow et al. adds nothing in combination with Eggers et al. which would make the present claimed invention unpatentable. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Application No. 09/805,342

Attorney Docket No. PU010026

No fee is believed due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: June 8, 2004  
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